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Sixtieth session

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 23 September 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Wali ..... (Nigeria)

Contents

Statement by the Chairman

Organization of work

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05-52127 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Statement by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** said that meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers. During the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Committee had used 72 per cent of its allocated conference resources and had lost 23.1 hours owing to late starting and early adjournment of meetings. He hoped that the Committee would be able to improve on those statistics at the current session.

2. He proposed that speakers should be limited to 10 minutes for the general debate and 7 minutes for statements made under specific agenda items. Longer statements should, if possible, be distributed in advance. Introductions by members of the Secretariat and statements made by representatives of agencies, funds and programmes should also be limited to 10 minutes; they shared focus on highlights and priorities and should also, if possible, be distributed in advance.

3. The programme of work (A/C.2/60/L.1) was largely based on the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/316 and decision 58/553 as well as the recommendations of the bureaux of the Committee at the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly. He drew attention to a letter from the President of the General Assembly on the allocation of agenda items to the Committee (A/C.2/60/1).

4. He wished to recall several changes in working methods adopted by the Committee. Resolutions and decisions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the Committee throughout rather than at the end of the session, and the Committee would consequently be holding informal consultations early in the session. Delegations should therefore make every effort to meet the deadlines for the appointment of facilitators and for submission of draft proposals. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, resolutions should be concise and action-oriented. Furthermore, decisions, rather than resolutions, should be used as much as possible for issues of a procedural nature. If the need arose, formal informals might be scheduled at the recommendation of the Bureau.

5. Lastly, in accordance with resolutions 54/236 and 57/282, the General Assembly had indicated that the Committee needed to include in its programme of work a review of the relevant recommendations put forth in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/60/16), specifically the recommendations contained in chapter III, sections C.1 and C.2. As the Fifth Committee would be taking up those recommendations on 25 October, the Committee would need to send any relevant comments to the Fifth Committee prior to that date. He therefore proposed that the Committee should consider the matter on 19 October.

6. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the arrangements he had described were acceptable to the Committee.

7. *It was so decided.*

Organization of work (A/60/250 and A/C.2/60/L.1)

8. **The Chairman** drew attention to document A/C.2/60/L.1 and to the decisions taken by the General Assembly based on the recommendations contained in the first report of the General Committee (A/60/250) concerning the organization of work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was Tuesday, 6 December 2005.

9. **Mr. Kotis** (United States of America), referring to item 56 (d) listed in document A/C.2/60/L.1, said that during consideration at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of resolution 59/242 on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin, there had been a lack of consensus on the agenda item under which the issue should fall. There had been no agreement to place the issue under item 56, Globalization and interdependence; his delegation would have wished to have considered the allocation of the agenda item more fully.

10. **The Chairman** said that he would take up the issue with the Secretariat.

11. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica), speaking also on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that her delegation fully supported the appeal to respect the deadlines set forth in the programme of work and, in so doing,

would be guided by the tradition of transparency and openness.

12. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that his delegation was fully committed to working within the recommended deadlines. He wished to know whether, as in the past, the Committee intended to have brief question-and-answer session after the introduction of reports.

13. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would continue its question-and-answer sessions. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve its programme of work as contained in document A/C.2/60/L.1.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to guidelines on submission of draft proposals to the Secretariat, which had been circulated to the Committee. They were designed to ensure that the Secretariat would be able to process documentation submitted by delegations in a timely manner.

16. **Ms. Elisha** (Benin) said that it was unclear who had drafted the guidelines. Furthermore, her delegation was concerned about the provision that any draft proposals which were not in strict compliance with those guidelines would be returned. Her delegation was prepared to accept the guidelines as a means of facilitating the work of the Secretariat; but could not accept the text if it meant that draft proposals would be returned unless the guidelines were met.

17. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the guidelines were meant to reduce the number of errors which crept into draft resolutions and decisions during revision. The possibility of error would be reduced by clearly showing how new drafts differed from earlier texts. The guidelines were put forward in the spirit of collaboration for the purpose of avoiding problems in editing and the introduction of unintended nuances in meaning and harmonizing the language versions of the new drafts.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.

United Nations A/C.2/60/SR.2

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 October 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Wali ..... (Nigeria)

Contents

Statement by the Chairman

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

General debate

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05-53273 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Statement by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** said that, at the 2005 World Summit, Member States had agreed to several important steps which required full and prompt implementation and reaffirmed the fundamental role of the United Nations in the promotion of international cooperation for development. The vitality of the global partnership for development had been shown by the commitment made at the Summit to implementing by 2006 comprehensive national development strategies to achieve internationally agreed development goals and increasing official development assistance (ODA) as well as by the establishment of firm timetables by the European Union to meet the target of 0.7 per cent for ODA. Another important step forward was the finalization of the debt relief plan for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

2. The international community must increase its efforts to conclude the Doha Development Round quickly. There was a very wide gap between the expressed political commitment to the Round and willingness to make the kinds of concessions which would give a major boost to the process. The sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Hong Kong would be the last opportunity to conclude the Round by the end of 2005.

3. The Committee would be addressing several other issues requiring special attention, including external debt and debt problems of countries which did not belong to the HIPC group, financing for development, globalization and interdependence and international migration. The Committee might also wish to adopt resolutions which would prepare the ground for the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and high-level dialogue on international migration and development during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

4. As many of the agenda items before the Committee required a cross-cutting approach, particularly those concerning the advancement of women, poverty eradication and the role of the private sector in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, he proposed holding a number of joint informal events with the Third Committee to enhance mutual understanding of those issues.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

5. **Mr. Ocampo** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the World Summit had reaffirmed faith in the multilateral system and expressed a strong commitment to the United Nations development agenda. The Summit had asserted the vital role which the United Nations conferences and summits had played in shaping a broad development vision, identifying common objectives, galvanizing development policy and programmes at all levels and guiding the work of the United Nations system. Among the elements in the Summit Outcome of particular relevance to the Committee was, first, the obligation of all States to adopt and begin implementing national development strategies for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Secondly, at the Summit, world leaders had reaffirmed their commitment to the global development partnership which had been agreed to in the Monterrey Consensus. Thirdly, the Summit had resolved to make full and productive employment and decent work for all a central objective of relevant macroeconomic policies and national development strategies. Fourthly, it had reaffirmed that gender equality was essential for advancing development and expressed a commitment to the integration of gender perspectives into political, economic and social policies and programmes. Fifthly, it had renewed commitments to sustainable development, including addressing issues of water, human settlements, biodiversity, desertification and climate change. Sixthly, the Summit had decided to strengthen United Nations capacity for peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding and produced a blueprint for a peacebuilding commission to ensure more coherent and sustained international efforts in post-conflict situations.

6. Furthermore, the Summit had forged agreement on key aspects of United Nations reform, including, most notably, strengthening the Economic and Social Council. The Council would in future be responsible for undertaking ministerial-level reviews of progress towards the development goals, convening a high-level development cooperation forum to review trends in international development cooperation and building its capacity to respond more effectively to economic, social and environmental developments and humanitarian emergencies. Lastly, the Summit had

reasserted the central responsibility conferred by the Charter on the Council for system-wide coordination.

7. With respect to financing for development, a number of measures to increase South-South cooperation had been put forward at the Summit. Moreover, ODA was expected to increase to $130 billion by 2010, from $80 billion in 2004, and aid to sub-Saharan Africa was expected to double, from $25 billion to $50 billion a year over the same period. The increase in aid, however, must not be limited to debt forgiveness, technical assistance and emergency and humanitarian relief. Rather, as recommended in the *World Economic and Social Survey 2005*, ODA must also be channelled through the budgets of the recipient countries themselves. The fulfilment of the aid commitments and the principles and targets in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness would be a major breakthrough in international cooperation, particularly for sub-Saharan Africa. Another breakthrough was the debt relief for HIPC countries agreed at the annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions. In short, the Summit had encouraged Member States to make major commitments in the areas of ownership, aid and debt. There had also been progress on innovative sources of financing, including plans by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization for the International Finance Facility and by the French, Brazilian and Chilean Governments for a global solidarity fund financed from airline tickets. Another advance for the Monterrey Consensus had occurred when the United Nations Convention against Corruption had received the ratifications required to become operational.

8. Those actions greatly supported the Monterrey Consensus and progress towards development. Nevertheless, to have a major impact, they must be extended. Furthermore, while debt relief for HIPC countries was welcome, the majority of the world's poor resided in other developing countries, many of which were middle-income States also facing heavy debt burdens. Some Summit participants had therefore stressed the importance of extending relief to non-HIPC and middle-income States. Moreover, the conditions attached to aid often conflicted with domestic development strategies. Only when aid was aligned fully with national development strategies, as set out in the Paris Declaration, could it be nationally owned and effective.

9. The growth of the world economy had slowed measurably in 2005; it was expected to reach about 3 per cent in 2005 and the same in 2006. The world economy was facing several constraints of a structural nature, most notably the rising external deficit of the United States and the growing surpluses in several economies of Asia and Europe and oil-exporting States. The recent rise in oil prices also posed a challenge to world economic growth and, in particular, the economic development of many developing countries. Other possible constraints on growth included a lull or even reversal of the trend in appreciating housing prices in many large economies and a significant rise in long-term interest rates and risk-adverse financial markets. Meanwhile, the international economic environment showed some auspicious signs. International trade had continued to grow at a robust pace; financial markets worldwide had generally remained calm; and the terms of trade for many developing countries had improved considerably.

10. The Committee would be considering several crucial issues involving the issue of globalization, including the challenges of achieving development goals and integration into the global economy, poverty eradication, particularly the central role played by employment, and sustainable development issues such as energy efficiency and international migration. Lastly, the General Assembly would be holding a high-level dialogue on international migration and development, which the Committee had been asked to organize.

11. **Mr. Lorenzo** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government had been one of the seven pilot countries to submit a Millennium Development Goals needs assessment report during the World Summit. The needs assessment had led the Dominican Republic to address pressing development issues such as the lack of capacity and human capital and helped his Government to identify the indicators and measures needed to improve the situation. The greatest challenge, however, was to draw a poverty map which would adapt national development goals to the needs of local communities. He would welcome further information on how high oil prices would affect the achievement of the Goals and on the importance of such needs assessments for the establishment of realistic Poverty Reduction Strategy Action Plans and combating poverty. It would also be useful to know how principle 10 of the Global Compact concerning corruption would affect

sustainable development. Lastly, in the light of the vulnerability of Caribbean islands to hurricanes and other natural disasters, more details were needed on the role of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund in prevention and relief efforts.

12. **Mr. Ocampo** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Goals assessment initiative undertaken by the Dominican Republic and other countries was of particular importance given the Summit decision to use needs assessments for national poverty reduction strategies and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations and agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme had a role to play in that process. On the issue of the recent stress felt by oil-importing countries, which were facing increasing balance-of-payment limitations, there could be greater cooperation between the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries. Oil-exporting countries, however, were currently facing oil capacity constraints and reduced oil-refining capability. Improving that capacity would benefit both oil-exporting and oil-importing countries. Concerning the Global Compact, the principle of transparency was indeed an essential element for achieving sustainable development. Lastly, there should be broader discussion on the ways in which the effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian response, including through the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, could be enhanced to meet the needs of countries such as the Caribbean islands which were particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

13. **Mr. Al-Ghanim** (Kuwait) said that, regrettably, a number of factors contributing to the rise in oil prices had not been addressed, such as increased demand for energy. Natural disasters had also had an impact on oil prices as several refineries had ceased operation. Furthermore, many advanced countries had not improved oil-refining technologies for some time. There was therefore a need to renew existing technologies. Another issue which had been overlooked was the contributions made by oil-exporting countries to developing countries. For example, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had contributed some $7 billion to promote the development of low-income countries.

14. **Mr. Loizaga** (Paraguay) said that one of the priorities for developing countries was the ability to use trade as an instrument for achieving their development goals, as was stressed in the report of the Secretary-General on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating in the global economy (A/60/322). Another essential element of development was employment, which required greater attention. Productive employment was needed to reduce poverty and promote health and education. ODA should not be seen as a mere handout, but as a means of improving the labour market. Further clarification was needed on the relationship between increasing trade and generating employment, which in turn would achieve stability, democracy, security and improved living standards.

15. **Mr. Mansour** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the representative of Kuwait had rightly pointed to the increase in international demand for energy and reduction in oil-refining capacity which had been affected by natural disasters and other elements. It should be noted that the increase in energy prices was not limited to oil. Furthermore, oil-producing countries were paying a high price for the technology which they were importing. The high price of oil was governed by the market and was beyond the control of energy-exporting countries. Lastly, the stress on oil-importing developing countries caused by high energy prices had been mitigated by the $7.4 billion from the OPEC Fund for International Development which had been earmarked for development.

16. **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon), referring to the view that the 2005 World Summit Outcome had fallen short of expectations, pointed out that a great deal could be accomplished in many areas highlighted by the Under-Secretary-General in his statement. Particular mention should be made of the need to implement earlier commitments, of additionality in relation to ODA and of the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making. His delegation would welcome suggestions from the Under-Secretary-General regarding the course of action to be followed in negotiating and formulating draft resolutions on that issue.

17. **Mr. Hackett** (Barbados) said that many developing countries, particularly in the middle-income category, were small economies caught between servicing their debts and financing their development. Obliged to borrow on the international markets in order to fund basic development projects often shunned by private investors, who considered the related risks too high, they faced rising debts. In view

of the Under-Secretary-General's references to the importance attached to debt relief by the Bretton Woods institutions and some Summit participants, the delegation of Barbados would welcome the views of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs regarding helping some of the countries concerned to deal with their increasing debt burden.

18. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Cuba) said that the Under-Secretary-General's statement observation that the terms of trade for many developing countries had improved considerably was contradicted by the difficulty of focusing the current World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on development and by the barriers facing the developing countries, such as agricultural subsidies. Accordingly, the delegation of Cuba would welcome an explanation of that observation, including the Under-Secretary-General's views on what the outcome of the Doha negotiations could be and what points the developing countries should insist on in order to achieve results favourable to them in the area of international trade.

19. **Mr. Leglise-Costa** (France) said that the renewed political impetus gained by the Millennium Development Goals, the progress made towards implementing the Monterrey commitments on financing for development and the steps taken with regard to such specific goals as fighting AIDS and improving the situation in Africa were impressive results that in some areas almost surpassed expectations. In light of the key role assigned to United Nations agencies with regard to development and of the need for their reform, the delegation of France would welcome the views of the Under-Secretary-General on the financing of those agencies.

20. **Mr. Ocampo** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), referring to the preceding observations and questions, said that indeed the Summit had catalysed various initiatives in the areas of ODA and South-South cooperation, implementation of the leading principles (ownership, alignment and harmonization) of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, measures addressing HIPC indebtedness and recognition of the importance of productive employment.

21. As the representatives of Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran had pointed out, high oil prices were indeed caused by growing demand rather than restricted supply. The situation had been exacerbated by recent natural disasters and the refining capacity problem pointed out by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but South-South and OPEC Fund initiatives were having positive effects. With regard to the debt burden, which had been referred to by the representative of Barbados, a full analysis of the issue was provided in the *World Economic and Social Survey 2005*. In addition to measures for the HIPC, steps were being taken to implement specific debt restructuring methods, such as the Evian approach adopted by Paris Club participants and the collective action clauses encouraged by IMF. However, further discussion was necessary to identify other restructuring approaches, such as an appropriate institutional mechanism, that would benefit both large and small debtor countries. With regard to the points raised by the representative of Cameroon, additionality in respect of ODA actually implied that additional specific aid of the order of $50 billion would flow annually to developing countries. Assistance should be aligned with the recipient countries' budgetary priorities, as established through the parliamentary process. Concerning the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, there was a consensus in the Bretton Woods institutions on the need to address the underrepresentation of developing countries in numerical terms and in terms of the amount of assistance received.

22. With regard to the points raised by the representatives of Paraguay and Cuba concerning international trade, the situation had in fact improved for many developing countries that were net exporters of energy, raw materials, particularly minerals, and agricultural commodities. The prices of such products had been recovering, largely as a result of Chinese demand, which generally speaking contributed to the accelerated economic growth of the developing world. However, there was no denying that current trade negotiations were encountering difficulties that the negotiators should endeavour to resolve. Key targets should be success in the negotiations over subsidies, implementation of special and differential treatment for developing countries that needed protection from international competition in sensitive but crucial sectors of their economy, and effective use of employment as a poverty reduction approach. Lastly, the coordination of the operational aspects of the United Nations and the activities of specialized agencies called upon to play a role in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be the

responsibility of the Economic and Social Council in keeping with its mandate.

General debate

23. **Sir Emyr Jones Parry** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine, reviewed the progress so far achieved in 2005 in terms of renewed commitments to implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences made in various forums, significant new commitments made in various financing for development meetings and the Summit held in September, and important agreements on sustainable development and environmental issues, such as those reached at the recent summit. The forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Montreal would deal with long-term measures to combat global warming. Resources for the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative would be scaled up, and health systems would be strengthened with a view to achieving universal access to reproductive health and to HIV/AIDS treatment.

24. In view of those achievements, the Second Committee during the current session should focus on areas where it could add value. The European Union was determined to strengthen and revitalize the Committee and improve its working methods. Fewer and more focused reports and resolutions and rationalization of the agenda could enrich the quality of work. There should be fewer long debates with prepared statements, and more interactive and stimulating panel discussions.

25. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the data for 2004 and 2005 on the global economic situation could be interpreted as the beginning of a downward cycle or just a temporary lapse resulting from restrictive short-term adjustments. After reviewing the data, he noted that Africa had begun to receive the focused attention its circumstances warranted. Positive decisions had been taken to assist in enhancing the economic, social and political performance of Africa on the basis of policies and programmes determined by Africans themselves, provide resources through a combinatio of debt cancellation and increased ODA, encoura private investment as well as enhance the quality aid. However, if international trade policies and rul were made more development-friendly, they wou create conditions for African exports to contribute the level of their potential to the financing of Afric development. He welcomed the increased recognitio of the particular needs and challenges of lea developed countries, landlocked least develope countries and small island developing States, and t reaffirmed commitment of the international communi to urgently address those needs and challenges throu the full, timely and effective implementation of t Brussels Programme of Action, the Almaty Programm of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Furth Implementation of the Programme of Action for t Sustainable Development of Small Island Developi States. However, other low-income and middle-incom developing countries also needed special attention. T challenge was to translate that recognition into actio oriented decisions.

26. He welcomed the steps taken to speed up effor to achieve the Millennium Development Goal including the commitment of some developed countri to timetables for achieving the target of 0.7 per cent GNP for ODA by 2015; the decision of the G-8 cancel the debt of 18 heavily indebted poor countri and the recognition that such action needed to extended to the other 20 countries in that category; a the acceptance of quick-impact initiatives as a mea of achieving identifiable results and maintaining publ interest and involvement.

27. The Group of 77 and China welcomed t recognition by the World Summit that the Millenniu Development Goals did not cover all the developme goals and the reaffirmation of and rededication to t broad set of commitments and goals from the vario development conferences and summits. Attention mu also be focused on achieving those goals. It w regrettable that the "July package" had not progresse further. It was equally disappointing that the Wor Summit had not agreed on a strong message to t WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong on the need fulfil the development dimension of the Doha wo programme. The Group of 77 and China reiterated t call for the elimination of export subsidies b developed countries, enhanced market access for goo and services from developing countries to the marke

of developed countries and the need to facilitate the transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries through a clear intellectual property regime.

28. Turning to systemic issues and global economic governance, he noted that it was extremely urgent to ensure that all countries had a greater participation in global economic decision-making. While the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO had resisted any formal arrangement to allow discussion and coordination of international policies in such areas as finance, trade and reform of the global financial architecture, the sanctioning by the World Summit of the holding of a biennial high-level development cooperation forum to review trends in international development cooperation and to promote coherence could serve as good basis for action in that regard.

29. Since the continued use of unilateral coercive measures against developing countries undermined United Nations principles and international law, threatened the freedom of trade and disturbed the flow of international economic activity, it must be eliminated. He noted, with regard to the special circumstances of countries under foreign occupation, that in order to advance the welfare of all peoples, the international community should take measures to end such occupation. The Group of 77 and China sought greater commitments of support to build and strengthen the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries and endorsed the call in the Millennium Project report (A/60/208) for a global undertaking to attain that objective. They hoped that the World Summit Outcome was the beginning of efforts to promote such a goal.

30. Greater attention must be paid to migration. An area of particular concern, in that regard, was how to reduce the costs of transferring remittances. He reaffirmed the commitment of the Group of 77 and China to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Group attached great importance to the three pillars of sustainable development and to the need to address them in an integrated manner. Noting with concern the increased incidence of natural disasters and their destructive impact on small and vulnerable economies, he called for increased international assistance in the creation of mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters and their effects, including through early-warning systems as well as long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction. In that regard, the United Nations system and the international community should work closely in assisting affected and disaster-prone countries and providing timely early-warning information to their Governments. They should also support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in disaster-prone developing countries. While the basic package of measures for development agreed by the 2005 World Summit was not as substantive as the problem required, the challenge was to complete the unfinished agenda and to devise the policies necessary to take forward the process of implementation.

31. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that, for the 2005 World Summit Outcome to have meaning, the goals, commitments and policies agreed by world leaders should be translated into action. In that regard, greater political commitment was needed, inter alia, to urgently secure adequate financing for the Millennium Development Goals, including reversing the net outflow of resources from the developing to the developed world, and to pursue innovative means of securing national and international financing. Measures should also be put in place to promote more equitable flows of foreign direct investment to all developing countries. Furthermore, he hoped that a number of agreements would be reached at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial meeting that responded to the interests of developing countries, including agreement on a tariff-cutting formula for non-agricultural goods leading to the early elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation against developing country exports; a moratorium on the use of anti-dumping actions against low-income countries; and an agreement on the end date for agricultural export subsidies, including cotton subsidies, and a clear commitment by the developed countries to end all other support measures.

32. A commodity price stabilization mechanism should be established and a review, by both WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), of the development dimension of the global intellectual property regime was needed. Noting that an agreement on international migration should be a central element of any fair trading system, he stressed the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in international trade, development and financial institutions.

33. Implementation of the Summit decisions, which should be member-driven, with support, as required, from the Secretariat, could be promoted systematically only when the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals had been identified as precisely as possible. In that regard, he suggested that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP should develop a comprehensive matrix on development goals, targets, indicators and the actors involved in achieving them. Inputs for such a matrix would be collected from United Nations agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and other bodies. It could be developed and refined into a model similar to the Donor Assistance Database (DAD) being used to track tsunami aid and should follow a results-based approach. In addition to identifying and tracking development goals, implementation must be vigorously pursued at the intergovernmental level through national and sectoral reviews and reviews by the Economic and Social Council as well as assessment by an annual ministerial session of the General Assembly.

34. Commenting on the five areas in which the 2005 Summit had assigned new responsibilities to the Council, he noted that the Council should be able to undertake a policy review of the status of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals by identifying the gaps, shortcomings and successes, both at the national level and development partner levels and further developing policy recommendations to advance the implementation process. A practical approach must be developed to allow the Council to effectively perform its functions as a biennial development cooperation forum which would address multilateral, bilateral and South-South cooperation and review both the quantity and quality of assistance for development. The Council's role in supporting and complementing international efforts to address humanitarian emergencies would depend on its ability to convene at short notice. Apart from policy coherence, the Council's coordination role could help to realize the goal of "one United Nations"; avoid duplication and waste of resources; and allocate tasks to those agencies and organizations that had the best comparative advantages. The Council's role in the Peacebuilding Commission would be to ensure coherence and a smooth transition from a conflict to a post-conflict and development phase.

35. **Mr. Denisov** (Russian Federation) welcomed the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Five years after the Millennium Summit and three years after the Monterrey Conference, the political impetus to achieve the Millennium Development Goals had been further reinforced. At the current session, the Second Committee should focus on the common objective of defining the programme for the implementation of the decisions reached during the Summit. Any decisions on financing for development should be taken on the basis of consensus. Imposing any specific initiative might have an adverse impact on the effectiveness of the painstakingly built and well-balanced Monterrey process. Increasing ODA was an important goal and the Russian Federation was working on strengthening its own donor potential. However, a mechanical increase in external assistance should not be considered a panacea; it was equally important to enhance the quality and effectiveness of aid.

36. Noting that the expansion of world trade created additional opportunities for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, he welcomed the recognition in the 2005 World Summit Outcome of the importance of integrating all States into the global trading system and facilitating the accession of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to WTO. He hoped that the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Meeting would be a turning point with respect to both the Doha Round and to the achievement of the Goals.

37. He supported the call for a more long-term perspective on financing for development, including the idea of voluntary mechanisms. However, realistic objectives should be set while resisting the temptation to impose solutions that lacked universal support. His delegation understood the importance of improving global environmental governance and supported the Secretary-General's idea of creating a global early-warning system, in the context of a revamped International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. His delegation also supported the holding of a high-level dialogue devoted to international migration and development during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. The Summit decisions on United Nations operational activities were balanced and reflected the ongoing discussions on enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations development system. All current efforts towards reform must be based exclusively on the decisions of Member States. It was fundamentally important to uphold the principle of

institutional integrity and organizational mandates of all operational agencies. Lastly, potential new sources of financing should not be a substitute for voluntary contributions to operational activities, which permitted the organizations of the United Nations system to perform their work in a neutral and apolitical manner.

38. **Mr. Jenie** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that a quarter of the people in the developing world still lived below the poverty line, and the gap between rich and poor continued to grow. It was therefore essential to meet the Millennium Development Goals, even though the international economic environment was not always favourable for developing countries, as attested by the recent High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly.

39. During the Second ASEAN-UN Summit held in New York in September 2005, ASEAN had acknowledged the United Nations support for the realization of the ASEAN Security, Economic and Socio-cultural Communities. Of particular importance was the Organization's continued backing of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme, which focused on accelerating ASEAN integration and narrowing the development gap among member countries. Cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations should be enhanced, encompassing key issues related to development and particularly poverty eradication, prevention and control of infectious diseases, natural disaster management, transnational issues, trade and investment, and energy.

40. Despite the different levels of economic development among ASEAN member countries, the Association wished to play a significant part in the wider progress of the Asia-Pacific region. It was pleased that greater recognition was being given to the complementary role of South-South cooperation and urged the international community and international financial institutions to provide continued support through triangular cooperation for the implementation of the Doha Plan of Action as well as regional initiatives, such as the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP), which served as a tool to bridge the two continents.

41. Development would come only from a genuine, balanced global partnership, as characterized by the commitments made by the developed countries at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in 2002, while developing countries had to continue their own efforts to mobilize domestic resources and create the best conditions for development in line with national priorities and capacities. A follow-up meeting to the Monterrey Conference would be very useful to assess the progress and ASEAN was grateful to Qatar for offering to host it in 2007.

42. It was crucial to act on several important issues. For example, the long overdue commitment of 0.7 per cent of GNP to ODA and the establishment of a timetable to achieve that target by 2015 was encouraging. ASEAN hoped that those developed countries which had not already made the commitment would do so and also attain 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to the least developed countries.

43. Other urgent issues included improving the quality of aid and aid effectiveness; supporting the initiative to eliminate the unsustainable debts of several Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and finding a viable solution for the debt problems of middle-income developing countries, perhaps by converting the debt service or principal amount into equities for new projects of at least equal value with their own potential earnings. Furthermore, support should given to the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Hong Kong in December 2005 and to renewing the call for the achievement of the goals of the Doha Development Agenda. In that regard, it was important to regain the momentum of multilateral trade talks and ASEAN pledged strong support for establishing full modalities in agriculture and in non-agricultural market access (NAMA) and making progress in the area of services, trade facilitation and improvement of rules and solutions in implementation-related issues. Key countries should assume active leadership to accelerate the pace of the ongoing negotiations. Continued efforts were needed to reform the international financial structure, including enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions.

44. The issue of natural disasters needed to be addressed and ASEAN welcomed the establishment of a worldwide early-warning system, building on regional and national capacity. It urged the international community to continue supporting the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase in the countries

affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, as agreed in General Assembly resolution 59/279.

45. Energy and high fuel prices were crucial factors affecting development. In the light of the global dependency on fossil fuels and diminishing supply, greater effort was needed to promote energy conservation, and develop alternative energy and renewable energy sources. Commitments concerning sustainable development, science and technology and "quick wins" should also be fulfilled.

46. **Mr. Effah-Apenteng** (Ghana) said that the Summit outcome represented a workable compromise between the differing interests and concerns of the Members of the United Nations. A number of significant undertakings had been given during the meeting; for example, all Governments had declared their firm and unambiguous commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, while the developed countries had manifested stronger support for achieving the target of contributing 0.7 per cent of GNP to ODA by the same date and the developing countries had pledged to promote good governance, fight corruption, pursue sound macro-economic policies, and make transparent and effective use of public funds.

47. The value of innovative sources of financing for development had been recognized and agreement had been reached on considering additional measures to ensure long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based financing, cancellation of the official multilateral and bilateral debt of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, and debt relief or restructuring for low-income and middle-income developing countries with unsustainable debt burdens.

48. All delegations had made a commitment to liberalize trade and work towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha work programme and the international community had resolved to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) through coherent support for its programmes and an international consortium, involving development banks, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa. Nevertheless, those commitments remained to be implemented and Ghana was encouraged by the agreement reached at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on financing the debt relief proposal put forward by the Group of 7 Finance Ministers in London in June and endorsed by the heads of the Group of 8 countries in July.

49. Country-level policy reforms, coupled with increased and more effective aid, though essential, were not enough to ensure sustainable development. Trade, as an engine of growth, was a critical factor: without a timely and satisfactory outcome to the Doha Development Agenda, developing countries could not achieve the economic growth needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals. If the commitments made in the Summit outcome to liberalize trade and work towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha Work Programme were put into practice, a satisfactory outcome should include: a major reform of agricultural trade policies to expand market access and eliminate trade-distorting subsidies; action to open markets in manufacturing and services; and increased aid for trade to address supply-side constraints and enhance the capacity of developing countries to take advantage of expanded trade opportunities.

50. The United Nations could play a central role by putting its vast array of technical expertise at the service of Governments of developing countries to assist them in formulating the national plans needed to achieve the Goals for implementation by 2006.

51. **Mr. Nguyen Tat Thanh** (Viet Nam) said that the major international financial institutions had forecast a slowing-down in the growth rate of the world economy. The current situation added to the difficulties faced by developing countries as a result of the unfair international economic system in which many of them still suffered from measures that were often arbitrary and unilateral, uneven foreign direct investment flows, and the continued paucity of ODA together with its ever-increasing conditionalities. In that context, the Summit outcome provided hope for improvement.

52. There was a serious lack of democracy at the heart of the multilateral trading system. While trade was universally recognized as crucially important for economic growth and development, many developing countries had become victims of unjustified protectionist measures and the Doha Round had reached a stalemate, especially in relation to agriculture. The Summit had called for the elimination of trade barriers and the opening up of markets to allow developing countries to realize the full potential

of their exports of agricultural products, to improve food security and the welfare of their people, and to provide impetus to the world economy as a whole. The response to that appeal would reflect the will to move forward.

53. Foreign direct investment and ODA remained critical, not only for the economic growth of developing countries, but also for their endeavours to develop national capacity and sound economic policies to ensure fulfilment of the Goals. While foreign direct investment flows kept increasing, the trend could not be guaranteed. Moreover, such flows were uneven: the 10 largest recipient countries accounted for three quarters of total foreign direct investment flows to developing countries. Meanwhile, ODA fell far short of the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. If the situation persisted, many poor developing countries and especially the heavily indebted African countries would be unable to fulfil their Millennium Development Goals. Viet Nam urged developed countries to adopt policies to encourage investment in developing countries in a more even-handed manner and to honour their commitment to the target of 0.7 per cent by 2015.

54. Debt relief and debt sustainability also needed to be addressed adequately as soon as possible in order to help achieve the Goals and Viet Nam welcomed the decision of the Group of 8 to cancel the outstanding debt to the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank of 18 low-income countries.

55. In the field of South-South cooperation, Viet Nam was continuing its fruitful tripartite cooperation with six African countries.

56. **Mr. Kau** (Fiji) said that the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit was not solely about development and poverty eradication; it also referred to peace and collective security, human rights and the rule of law, and the strengthening of the United Nations. Moreover, it was not possible to ensure security while one billion human beings were in danger of being left behind. Consequently, trading partners were urged to recognize the special difficulties faced by developing economies during trade reforms and to provide support during the cessation of preferential treatment and guaranteed commodity prices. Moreover, the speed of the systemic changes in trade should be adjusted to a more realistic pace suited to developing nations.

57. For trade reform to be successful, access to markets and appropriate prices for commodities were essential; also, the role of economic stability in furthering development goals needed to be stressed. Countries needed access to an equitable global financial and trading system. Recent agreements, such as the Monterrey Consensus and the Mauritius Strategy, ensured that the framework was in place; all that remained was to implement them.

58. Fiji welcomed the European Union's timetable to reach new levels of ODA. It hoped that the funds would further galvanize the implementation of projects in developing countries and reach the intended recipients. Fiji thanked its partners for their economic support in the reform of its sugar industry; it had initiated programmes to encourage the diversification of agricultural crops, support farmers through loan payment strategies and assist them in gaining market access. However, those national efforts required regional and international support.

59. Fiji agreed that sustainable development was in itself a central goal and believed that all agreements and plans of action needed to be considered in the light of their ability to promote development towards the Millennium Development Goals. It wished to call special attention to the need to implement the actions outlined in the Mauritius Strategy for the development of Small Island Developing States, which provided a blueprint for achieving development goals.

60. Many facets of development were best addressed at the regional and country levels and the role of the international community was to provide structural and economic support to allow sovereign States to develop their own national implementation plans. The Fiji Government was giving priority to the development of rural areas and funding a plan of action to encourage gender equality. It was also directing money towards poverty alleviation efforts.

61. Fiji welcomed South-South cooperation partnerships and particularly the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific. It urged the United Nations agencies and bodies and the Millennium Project to support the recommendations in the Declaration.

62. Poverty eradication should remain a paramount concern for all and particular importance should be given to supporting women's efforts to achieve sustainable development and eliminate poverty. The disparity in information and communications technology (ICT) between the rich and poor must be addressed urgently, since ICT was a powerful tool for development. Migration was another issue of critical importance for Fiji and other developing countries. Fiji also looked to the General Assembly to provide the political direction for the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and increased empowerment of the Secretary-General in directing the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/60/SR.3

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 October 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Koudelka (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Koudelka (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that a number of recent reports and studies had stressed the need for additional national and international efforts to achieve the three pillars of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental protection — and had reaffirmed the need to assist Africa in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In the run-up to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference to be held in Hong Kong in December 2005, States would be seeking an agreement that ensured the creation of a fair and equitable trade system and reflected common efforts to ensure the success of the global partnership for development. In that regard, he welcomed the commitment made at the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit in Gleneagles to cancel the debt owed by a number of least developed countries and looked forward to reaching a comprehensive agreement that adequately addressed the debt problem of all countries, particularly middle-income countries, where about 75 per cent of the world's poor resided. In that regard, his delegation proposed further examination and implementation of debt swaps for development, concerning which Egypt had conducted a successful experiment.

2. However, the global partnership for development would not bear real fruit unless developed countries fully implemented their commitments. In that context, he welcomed the announcement by a number of countries that they would set timetables for achieving the agreed 0.7 per cent official development assistance (ODA) target and stressed the importance of all developed countries doing the same. His delegation was also interested in further examining additional and innovative sources of financing for development, provided that they did not place any burdens on developing countries and were implemented in a manner consistent with national legislation and development priorities.

3. Noting that the Outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly reflected international interest in Africa and recalling that African leaders too had emphasized the need to address Africa's special needs, he proposed assigning to the Second Committee an item on the special needs of Africa, which would be in addition to the item on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) allocated to the plenary Assembly.

4. Egypt supported United Nations efforts to establish a worldwide early warning system for natural disasters and looked forward to reaching a common understanding that would promote efforts in the area of climate change without placing new burdens on developing countries, especially as some developed countries had not yet implemented their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, while others were not yet parties to that Protocol. Egypt called on development partners to honour in full their commitment to help developing countries achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including through the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a preferential basis.

5. The increase in oil prices made it necessary for developing countries to diversify energy sources and to receive support in their efforts to provide access to energy services to their citizens. In that regard, he called on all relevant regional and international financial institutions to provide finance to energy projects, particularly in middle-income countries. Lastly, greater attention must be given to international migration, which was causing a real brain drain in developing countries. Egypt hoped that discussions in preparation for the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on international migration and development, to be held in 2006, would be meaningful and would result in a successful outcome.

6. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco) said that, even if the Outcome had not responded to all the concerns of developing countries, the 2005 World Summit had achieved important advances. Many of the commitments would have positive repercussions on the ground if applied immediately. Noting that the Millennium Development Goals now enjoyed universal recognition and support and that all developing countries had made a commitment immediately to implement national development strategies based on investment in human development, he said that the commitment by most developed countries to set a timetable for meeting the 0.7 per cent ODA target was promising. His delegation also welcomed the decision to approve the G-8 proposal to cancel the multilateral

debt of some of the world's poorest countries and encouraged donor countries and international financial institutions to strive to find solutions to the debt problems of other developing countries.

7. His Government was encouraged by the way in which discussions on innovative sources of financing were evolving and welcomed the launch of the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm) and the pilot project of a tax on airline tickets, which Morocco fully supported. However, while such new approaches could make a significant contribution to international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, they must not be a substitute for traditional forms of ODA, debt relief or other market access facilities.

8. On the issue of international trade, his delegation regretted that the 2005 World Summit Outcome had not responded to the interests of developing countries or sent a clear message to WTO in that regard. International commitments on ODA and debt relief required a parallel effort on market access if the desired results with respect to poverty and economic growth were to be achieved. It was essential to work towards completing the Doha Round of negotiations and to ensure that account was taken of the specific interests of developing countries. Developed countries had a major responsibility in that respect. It was important to consolidate the commitment made by developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so to provide duty-free and quota-free access to all products originating from least developed countries so as to ensure predictability and enable the countries concerned to direct investment towards the most buoyant export sectors. For its part, Morocco had already undertaken to provide duty-free and quota-free access to exports from the least developed countries in Africa. His delegation also welcomed the agreement to seek a coherent institutional framework with a view to establishing an integrated structure for environmental issues and was ready to work with interested delegations on following up that decision.

9. Noting that international migration and development would be given particular attention in the run-up to the high-level dialogue to be held in 2006 and recalling that Heads of State or Government had agreed at the 2005 World Summit to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify ways and means to maximize their development benefits and minimize their negative impacts, he said that Morocco and developing countries in general were particularly interested in measures to reduce the cost incurred by migrant workers when transferring remittances to their countries of origin. Lastly, the Committee should seriously examine the recommendations contained in the report of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), which was due to be published during the current week.

10. **Mr. Andjaba** (Namibia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the SADC region was one of the regions lagging behind in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. On average, 38 per cent of the population lived on less than $1 a day. Worse still, owing to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the region had one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the world. As a result, life expectancy had fallen dramatically in the early 1990s. The scourge was threatening to reverse all the development gains made over the years and continued to undermine progress by decimating the very foundation of development — human resources. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), one third of people living with HIV lived in SADC countries. Over one million people were estimated to have died from AIDS in the SADC region alone in 2001. SADC countries had responded robustly, developing policy options to deal with HIV/AIDS issues and mitigate the pandemic's adverse effect on agriculture and food security, formulating guidelines on HIV/AIDS and mobile populations, household surveys and a model for mainstreaming orphans and vulnerable children in the education system, and establishing a regional forum for national AIDS authorities. SADC member States had also continued to roll out programmes on antiretroviral therapy and prevention of mother-to-child transmission. HIV/AIDS was the most devastating but not the only challenge facing the region, which also suffered from poverty and income inequality, food insecurity and environmental degradation. The prospects of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the region would largely depend on how effectively those challenges were addressed.

11. First and foremost, there was an imperative need for more resources for development. An estimated $17.6 billion in external financing was required to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty

and hunger in the SADC region alone. The region continued to suffer a debilitating debt burden: SADC countries had a total debt stock of $78.1 billion with a total annual debt service of $6.8 billion. Indeed, some of them spent more on debt-servicing than on key social sectors. It was lamentable that despite initiatives such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, most of the countries of the region were not in a position to service their debt without experiencing shocks. If the trend continued, achievement of the Goals by 2015 would remain out of reach for most SADC countries. The only lasting solution was debt cancellation for HIPC countries and low- and middle-income countries that could not sustain their debt. In that regard, he welcomed the G-8 decision to fully cancel the debt of some HIPC countries. However, steps must be taken to ensure that no HIPC country that had reached completion point should continue to experience severe problems relating to debt sustainability and debt service. Implementation of the G-8 proposals, endorsed by the Development Committee in September 2005, should be expedited.

12. Recalling that the Monterrey Consensus had identified trade as an engine for growth and development, he said that it was in the international community's interests to work collectively to ensure that the Doha Development Round upheld the development dimension and comprehensively addressed issues of interest to developing countries. SADC called on its development partners to summon the political will needed to settle outstanding issues, particularly regarding market access and agricultural subsidies. The August Framework Agreement must be recognized as the most important framework guiding the search for consensus if there was to be a successful outcome to the WTO Ministerial Conference at the end of the year.

13. Noting that ODA was one of the most important sources of development finance, he commended those countries that had met the 0.7 per cent target or set timetables to that end, in particular the European Union. He also welcomed the World Bank's Africa Action Plan ("Meeting the Challenge of Africa's Development: A World Bank Group Action Plan"), which provided a good framework for working together to address the development challenges facing Africa, in accordance with programmes identified by African countries themselves. Without a substantial increase in development resources, the full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals would elude most developing countries. At such a critical juncture, the international community should resist any temptation to reopen or renegotiate past commitments.

14. The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation had set a strategic framework for the region's development agenda, with the former providing a blueprint for the next 15 years. SADC had also implemented prudent and sound macroeconomic policies and business-friendly reforms. The region had experienced GDP growth of 4.1 per cent in 2004, compared to 3.2 per cent in 2003. Its goal was to reach the international minimum growth rate of 6 to 7 per cent in order to reduce poverty by half in 2015.

15. The SADC region continued to enjoy peace and stability (critical prerequisites for development), consolidation of democracy and rule of law. At its 2004 Summit, it had adopted the Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. A number of member States had held or would soon be holding presidential and parliamentary elections inspired by those principles and guidelines. At its 2005 Summit, a decision had been taken to establish an SADC Electoral Advisory Council to advise SADC structures and the electoral commissions of member States.

16. Realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, would largely depend on significant reforms at the national and international levels. At the country level, reforms should concentrate on integrating the Goals into country-owned long-term development strategies, reorienting domestic policies and institutions towards meeting specific Goals, and promoting good governance and partnerships with all stakeholders. Development partners, meanwhile, should honour their commitment to increase and improve ODA to least developed countries and align aid with the needs of recipient countries; open their markets to commodities from SADC countries and build a fair international trading system; broaden debt relief and finance new commitments through grants rather than loans; and increasingly move towards multilateralism. Since it was convinced that development should remain at the centre of the United Nations agenda, SADC would like to see the Committee revitalized and the Economic and Social

Council strengthened in order to enable them to carry out the demanding task of supporting the international community's development efforts.

17. **Mr. Sunaga** (Japan) said that, while developed and developing countries had been making earnest efforts to mobilize financial resources, the international community now needed to take concrete action to implement its commitments. To that end, consideration needed to be given to a number of key issues. First, since the recent rapid increases in oil prices could rapidly undermine the long-standing efforts to mobilize financial resources, it would be appropriate for the Committee to hold in-depth consultations on that subject, with particular reference to the development perspective. Second, concerted action needed to be taken to halt the spread of potentially catastrophic diseases such as avian influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the dangers of which were magnified by the rapid pace of globalization. Developing countries were particularly vulnerable and collective action was required to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. Third, Japan welcomed the decision to establish a Peacebuilding Commission, which would finally enable the United Nations to address the challenge comprehensively, by involving not only the Security Council but also other relevant United Nations bodies. Lastly, his delegation welcomed the fact that the 2005 World Summit Outcome gave due attention to natural disasters, the economic and social impact of which had long been underestimated by the international community. The Asian tsunami of 2004 and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the United States had highlighted the need for worldwide, coordinated action. Japan emphasized the importance of taking advantage of such increased awareness and encouraged Member States to contribute actively to deliberations, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

18. Japan also attached great importance to the notion of human security and to South-South cooperation, both of which were mentioned in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Japan believed that the two approaches would make a substantial contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and looked forward to fruitful discussions on them. Lastly, Japan was fully committed to implementing the 2005 World Summit Outcome and hoped to see significant results by the end of the current session.

19. **Mr. Baja** (Philippines) said that it should be the priority concern of all Member States to move the development agenda of the United Nations forward. Development was the foundation of peace, security and stability and without it efforts to establish international peace would be jeopardized. It was therefore in the common interest to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. However, the Goal of halving poverty by 2015 would only be achieved if the commitments made at various meetings and conferences over the past decade were implemented. To that end, the international community needed to think of creative and innovative ways to complement existing means of cooperation.

20. The debt problem of many middle-income countries had been exacerbated by soaring oil and energy prices, threatening their ability to achieve the internationally agreed development objectives, including the Goals. As a result, the assistance of donor countries and international financial institutions was needed in order for the countries to have adequate resources to finance the development priorities outlined in their national development plans. The Philippines had therefore proposed the voluntary adoption of debt-equity swaps for Millennium Development Goals projects as a creative and innovative means of mobilizing resources to help alleviate poverty and achieve the Goals. Under the proposal, rich countries, multilateral institutions and large commercial banks would plough back into the economies of debtor countries 50 per cent of an agreed portion of the debt-servicing payments, which would then be channelled towards the financing of Goal-based priorities. Projects under the scheme could focus on a variety of areas such as health, education and the environment. The Philippines looked to bilateral donors, creditors and multilateral financial institutions to give serious consideration to its debt relief scheme for middle-income countries.

21. The international community, under the aegis of the United Nations, should bear in mind that unbridled oil prices would adversely affect the ability of developing countries to meet their development commitments. In that respect, it should enhance energy cooperation, support efficient energy use and explore and utilize alternative energy sources, such as wind power or solar energy. The possibility should also be

considered of convening an oil summit to discuss how to address the looming energy crisis efficiently and effectively.

22. Increasing migration required a comprehensive and effective international cooperation mechanism capable of addressing its multidimensional aspects. The Philippines stood ready to cooperate with others in contributing to the development of such a mechanism. There was also a need to look at remittances as an economic resource that could propel and sustain economic growth and development in migrants' countries of origin and at ways of reducing the transaction costs of remittances.

23. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that, despite recent encouraging developments and economic growth in some developing economies, the gap between rich and poor was widening, the reverse transfer of resources was continuing, interest rates and inflation were increasing and oil prices were soaring. With a view to achieving the internationally agreed development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, his delegation therefore proposed that: the international financial institutions should be democratized, allowing developing countries greater scope for policymaking in formulating their own development strategies; an open, rule-based and equitable trade system should be established and should provide greater access for the products of developing countries; the commitments made on the provision of official development assistance should be implemented, and such assistance should be untied and provided as a direct budgetary support; foreign direct investment to poor or non-recipient countries should be encouraged through incentives; urgent action should be taken to address the worsening debt burden of developing countries, particularly through debt cancellation; labour mobility from developing countries to developed countries should be enhanced through mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); developed countries should make available to developing countries knowledge, information and technologies, including the formula for producing life-saving pharmaceutical products; and a holistic approach should be adopted to resolve the problems of least developed countries, requiring the full and effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the least developed countries.

24. **Ms. Laohaphan** (Thailand) said that a global partnership had emerged for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in which various stakeholders were given specific roles and responsibilities. For a development agenda to succeed, it must be crafted, led and owned by the recipient countries. The ultimate responsibility for achieving the Goals rested primarily with developing countries. The latter should commit themselves to putting in place an enabling environment for the achievement of the Goals through the adoption and implementation of policies conducive to pro-poor economic growth, private sector investment and the empowerment of the poor.

25. Closer cooperation for development had become an important mechanism for many countries. The promotion of subregional and regional cooperation provided a development framework in which developing countries could utilize their diverse strengths, fully harness their economic potential and generate balanced development throughout their subregion or region. Regional cooperation provided greater access to resources and markets as well as a forum for sharing common concerns, knowledge and information.

26. Thailand stood ready to cooperate with others in reforming the multilateral trading system and the international financial system with a view to establishing free and fair systems. In that connection, her Government looked forward to contributing to the successful and timely conclusion of the Doha Development Round. The forthcoming Ministerial Conference of WTO in Hong Kong provided another important opportunity for both developed and developing countries to make progress towards placing the proper emphasis on the development dimension. Focus must also be placed on the broader picture, so as to maintain a balanced package for the Doha Development Agenda as a whole. The Second Committee would have to show flexibility, good faith and the ability to compromise in order to achieve the progress desired in the area of international trade, development and financial systems.

27. Sustainable development and environmental issues must be pursued consistently. However, translating that principle into practical national and international strategies was also important and should be undertaken simultaneously. Developed and developing countries had common but differentiated responsibilities, common goals but different tasks. The same principle should be applied to the work of the Second Committee and its resolutions.

28. More attention needed to be given to humanitarian relief assistance and disaster reduction, particularly to making coordination more effective. Thailand had been doing its utmost to put in place an effective region-wide tsunami early warning system. A multidonor voluntary trust fund launched recently with governmental funds would contribute to broadening the tsunami response by developing a network of national and regional centres. The fund would also assist those centres in building capacity in terms of technology, organization and expertise.

29. The scope of the Second Committee's work did not require any expansion. Rather, existing agendas should be put into practice and real progress should be made on work programmes.

30. **Mr. Sen** (India) said that, while the 2005 World Summit Outcome had its shortcomings, what had been achieved by developing countries on economic issues reflected the extent of their solidarity. Resistance to unjust international regimes was bound to grow, and any treaty that impinged adversely on the livelihood of ordinary people could not long endure. The Outcome recognized that the realization of the Millennium Development Goals would require stronger international cooperation for development. However, most delegations had had much higher expectations from the Summit in the area of development, particularly with regard to clear political direction in the areas of finance, trade, technology and debt relief. It was vital for the United Nations to give such direction to the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference, since progress in the trade negotiations had been disappointing in a number of areas.

31. His delegation recognized the progress made on the Innovative Financing Framework for Immunization. Operationalizing the latter was particularly important, since frontloading aid would enable many recipient countries to overcome the initial critical bottlenecks in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. As proposals for generating additional resources reached maturity, the establishment of robust and efficient mechanisms for tracking actual ODA flows would be vital, especially in the context of the recent debt relief initiative. State sovereignty was an important means of defending citizens' rights. Anything that eroded a State's autonomy in policymaking, such as the Bretton Woods institutions and speculative capital flows, therefore needed to be reformed and checked. In that respect, a kind of Tobin tax was not simply a means of innovative financing but also of strengthening policy autonomy.

32. His delegation welcomed the proposals for intensifying global development partnerships to help Africa. Consolidating economic and social progress in Africa was a challenge for the entire international community. India had an extensive bilateral programme of economic and scientific cooperation with Africa based on grants and credits. It favoured the mobilization, through the United Nations system, of greater resources and coalitions of the willing for such areas as agriculture, water management and public health.

33. He was gratified by the recent initiative on irrevocable debt cancellation for heavily indebted poor countries, recalling that debt burdens were a serious threat to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. It was essential to ensure that commitments made to provide additional resources were implemented without delay. Moreover, debt stock cancellation should be complemented by a sharp increase in ODA, in keeping with the Monterrey Consensus.

34. Environmental protection remained a major challenge for developing countries. One of the major constraints faced by the developing countries in carrying out the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was the availability of environmentally sound technology. The global regime in place inhibited the use of technology for development by impeding the rights of all to share in the benefits of technological advancement.

35. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that the 2005 World Summit Outcome had diverged considerably from its planned objectives and that discussions on institutional reform and human rights had overshadowed development issues. Development issues should remain a central concern for the international community, however, since international peace and security could not be achieved without development. It was therefore vital to shift the focus back to development issues by promoting and strengthening global partnerships on the basis of shared responsibilities and benefits. Furthermore, international cooperation for development needed to be placed once more on a sound footing and the commitments undertaken by all development partners fulfilled. International cooperation currently remained inadequate, owing

chiefly to the lack of the political will required to translate the commitments into action on the ground.

36. Despite the efforts made by bilateral and multilateral development partners, much remained to be done to achieve the Goals by 2015. To that end, the developed countries should: honour their commitment to provide ODA equivalent to 0.7 per cent of their GNP; take courageous decisions to reduce the heavy debt burden; settle trade issues; make the trading system more open and equitable; and make information and communication technologies more accessible.

37. The considerable efforts made by developing countries to honour their commitments were being undermined by the non-delivery of promised funds and by unjust rules governing international economic relations. Those obstacles to development should remain central concerns requiring swift and equitable solutions.

38. The international community should pay particular attention to the special needs of Africa, with a view to enabling it to pursue sustainable economic growth and integrate into the global economy. To that end, NEPAD could act as a solid platform for a fruitful partnership between Africa and the international community. However, NEPAD would not succeed without the active and consistent support of the international community.

39. Environmental degradation called for urgent collective action. His country had acceded to all the relevant international instruments, including the Kyoto Protocol. The proclamation by the United Nations of 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification was an opportunity for the international community to promote public awareness of desertification and related phenomena, which were an obstacle to development. In that regard, the international community as a whole should pay greater attention to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. States affected by environmental degradation should have access to any technologies necessary for overcoming problems and pursuing their development.

40. South-South cooperation had taken new steps forward in 2005 as a result of the Second South Summit, held in Doha, at which the countries represented had strengthened their commitment to such cooperation. That progress stemmed from the current determination to strengthen South-South cooperation in all areas and to take into account the contribution of regional and triangular cooperation. Such actions and initiatives should be supported, encouraged and strengthened.

41. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) said that, in order to address widespread underdevelopment, particularly in Africa, and a potential slowdown in the world economy, bold steps would have to be taken on a number of fronts. Famine, malnutrition and food insecurity affecting millions of Africans must be obliterated, and Africa must be more fully integrated in the world trading system. In that connection, he called for greater trade liberalization and implementation of the Doha Round, including the removal of barriers to ensure greater market access for developing countries' products. He welcomed the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to increase trade between the United States and Africa and noted that the 2005 AGOA Forum had been held in Dakar in July. He also called for contributions to the Digital Solidarity Fund, established to bridge the digital divide between developing and developed countries by strengthening infrastructure and human capital.

42. His delegation welcomed the decision of the Bretton Woods institutions to cancel the multilateral debt of 18 countries, including Senegal, and hoped it would be implemented immediately without preconditions. It suggested that the same privilege should be extended to other countries. It also welcomed proposals to generate additional financing for development through an international finance facility and the pilot project on global transport taxes, as well as economic growth policies in developing countries based on good governance and the rule of law.

43. Intent on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Senegal had one of the strongest economies in Africa. Through sound management of public finances, effective policies to control inflation and a healthy macroeconomic framework, it had attained a growth rate of 6.3 per cent in 2005. More than 5,000 jobs for youth had been created annually. The incidence of HIV/AIDS had decreased from 1.7 to 0.7 per cent, and the school enrolment rate had climbed from 50 per cent in 2000 to 70 per cent in 2005. The Senegalese development strategy was based on investment in human resources, expansion of infrastructure (roads, bridges, and a new international airport) and the promotion of private initiative through, inter alia, a

reduction in corporate taxes. Senegal's accelerated growth strategy, designed to increase the annual real growth rate of the gross domestic product to over 7 per cent through the creation of wealth, was bolstered by its graduation from the HIPC Initiative in 2004, its eligibility for the Millennium Challenge Account, and the implementation of reforms under its National Programme of Good Governance.

44. He urged the international community to support NEPAD and the development of agriculture, on which the majority of the African population was dependent, through the transfer of technology, including under Dakar Agricole, a programme founded by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade. Another project sponsored jointly by President Wade and President Obasanjo of Nigeria — the construction of a "great green wall" in the Sahara to control desertification in Africa — would benefit both agriculture and the global environment.

45. Eradication of the major pandemics of the century (AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, poliomyelitis) would also be crucial. In addition, drepanocytosis had become a major public health problem in Africa, and its debilitating effects were an obstacle to development.

46. **Mr. Widhya** (Cambodia) said that, without development assistance, many States, particularly the least developed countries, would fail to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. He urged developed countries to increase ODA to the least developed countries from 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their GNP. Stressing that trade was one of the most important external sources of financing for development, he reiterated the importance of the role played by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in trade liberalization, the revitalization of financial flows and technology transfer. UNCTAD must be maintained and strengthened in order to facilitate the integration of developing countries and countries in transition in the multilateral trading system. He called for an equitable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system that would enhance market access for the few exportable products of the least developed countries, and stressed the importance of greater stability in the international financial and monetary systems. The aggravation of economic disparities between the countries of the North and South was extremely disheartening.

47. Poverty eradication continued to present the most formidable development challenge in Cambodia, a least developed country. Poverty reduction efforts in Cambodia were focused on diversification of the light industry sector, the development of tourism, increased agricultural production and job opportunities. Small landowners were learning to deal with external factors by diversifying their economic activities. Human resources development, particularly the promotion of education and health, and debt relief were other vital poverty reduction measures.

48. Through its Rectangular Strategy and its Governance Action Plan, his Government was implementing reforms designed to achieve strong economic growth, higher employment, a more efficient public sector and equity and social justice. Annual economic growth of 6 to 7 per cent, equitable distribution of income, and sustainable environmental management and use of natural resources were key objectives of its national poverty reduction strategy. Cambodia had added clearing mines and unexploded ordnances and assistance to mine victims as a ninth goal beyond the eight Millennium Development Goals.

49. Cambodia had witnessed tremendous economic progress since the introduction of its macroeconomic policy framework in 1993, particularly in the period from 1999 to 2003. It must still find ways to diversify its economy, expand its growth base, curb population growth, build national institutions and strengthen good governance at the central and local levels. Through an integrated and cohesive approach that involved all stakeholders, it hoped to reduce poverty and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and to improve human resources development and environmental preservation by 2015.

50. Lastly, he urged the developed countries to assume their share of the responsibility for ensuring the development of the developing countries, particularly through the Doha Plan of Action and efforts to strengthen education and information and communication technology. It also supported the initiative of the Emir of Qatar to host in Doha in 2007 the first follow-up conference to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

51. **Ms. Núñez Mordoche** (Cuba) said that the 2005 World Summit Outcome had been disappointing for the developing world. The Summit, originally proposed by the Group of 77 and China, was supposed to be an

objective appraisal of progress and setbacks in implementing the modest Millennium Development Goals and the other development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic fields. Instead, it had turned into a summit on reform of the United Nations. Commitments and proposals with regard to financing for development, external debt and international governance had been sorely lacking, and other vital issues, such as trade, had been all but eliminated from the agenda. Previously agreed language on important goals and commitments had been called into question, and some of the new formulations on such issues as HIV/AIDS and gender equality, would actually impede progress. A number of proposals on innovative sources of financing for development had not garnered the desired support, and even the humble "quick-win" initiatives proposed by Professor Sachs were in real danger of being cast aside.

52. Nonetheless, the leaders of poor countries had reminded the world once again of the major problems confronting their peoples — poverty, malnutrition, disease — for which many of them had blamed the existing international economic order and the developed countries' failure to honour their commitments.

53. The Committee should strive to restore the question of development to its rightful prominent place on the United Nations agenda. On the basis of previously concluded agreements, practical actions must be taken to improve the quality of life for the peoples of developing countries. She highlighted the need to achieve progress in genuine cooperation for development, without onerous conditionalities, in full respect for the sovereignty of each nation and its right to choose its development model, and taking into account the interests, priorities and needs of the poorest countries.

54. At the Summit, Cuba had presented its second report on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, outlining the economic, social and environmental programmes and policies it had undertaken despite a serious drought across much of its territory, an energy shortage owing to high oil prices and, worst of all, the unjust and illegal economic, commercial and financial embargo the United States of America had imposed against it for more than four decades. Nonetheless, Cuba's social indicators were better than those of a number of industrialized countries, testifying to its genuine political will to help those most in need.

55. **Mr. Manongi** (United Republic of Tanzania) urged the Committee to build on the outcomes of the past years' meetings and events, particularly the Millennium Project reports and the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Recognizing that the primary responsibility for achieving the Goals lay with developing countries themselves, he nonetheless stressed the vital importance of an enabling international environment. Developing countries had taken many initiatives at the national level and through their economic groups and gatherings, such as the Second South Summit, which had adopted the Doha Plan of Action.

56. Noting the slow progress of the Doha Development Round, he expressed the hope that both developed and developing countries would show the flexibility needed to ensure the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda work programme at the Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO to be held in Hong Kong in December. The importance of the Doha work programme had been highlighted in the Development Committee communiqué issued by the Bretton Woods institutions on 25 September.

57. Agriculture remained the backbone of many developing economies. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), agriculture accounted for approximately 30 to 60 per cent of the GDP of least developed countries and employed 40 to 90 per cent of their populations. Noting that more than 82 per cent of the Tanzanian population depended on agriculture for its livelihood, he appealed to development partners to provide adequate resources to the Second Account of the Common Fund for Agriculture.

58. Owing to a lack of political will, national and international efforts to mobilize adequate financing for development fell far short of what was needed. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the recent commitment by the European Union to establish timetables for achieving the 0.7 per cent target for ODA. Those timetables must be realistic, however, if the Millennium Development Goals were to be attained by 2015.

59. **Mr. Hachani** (Tunisia) said that, while the Outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting contained

certain positive features, overall it failed to come up to expectations. That said, the event had at least made the Millennium Development Goals the catalyst of a new development dynamic. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the renewed commitment by the World Summit to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA by 2015 at the latest, as well as the decision taken by the World Bank and IMF to cancel the debt of the 18 poorest countries.

60. The challenge of eradicating poverty was currently the subject of a clear global consensus, increasingly mobilizing all the members of the international community. The roots of insecurity were undoubtedly economic. Without genuine prospects of development and a well-coordinated international partnership, the risks of economic and political instability would continue to loom large. There were a few interrelated and interdependent areas where change was needed in order to give an operational perspective to the international consensus on development and to be able to strike a balance between development objectives and globalization constraints.

61. First, ODA was held to be both the precursor and the driving force of any strategy for mobilizing national financial resources. Macroeconomic and structural reforms in the developing countries ran up against financing needs which ODA could help to meet. It was well established that innovative sources of financing were a response to an unsatisfactory level of ODA, not as a substitute for it, but as a necessary complement. The proliferation of development and poverty-eradication initiatives and projects demonstrated that financing had acquired a greater prominence in the international landscape, one example being the Global Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly. Tunisia warmly welcomed the proposal made by Qatar to host, in the course of 2007, the first follow-up conference to the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey in March 2002.

62. Secondly, the synergistic relationship between trade, development and financing was now an accepted reality. The implementation of the Doha Development Agenda, within the context of the WTO multilateral negotiations, should be of interest to all Member States. But, in fact, trade and commerce, powerful catalysts for economic growth and human development, continued to operate in a multilateral system that was unbalanced, incompatible with the commitments made under the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus, and out of line with the Doha Development Agenda. In that regard, his delegation drew attention to the commitment in the 2005 World Summit Outcome to effective and non-discriminatory operation of the multilateral trading system and the implementation of the development dimensions of the Doha work programme.

63. Thirdly, the capacity of the developing countries to handle debt and integrate debt sustainability into development strategies required strengthening. Prospects for growth, human development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals depended on a manageable level of debt. The middle-income countries also faced problems of development, poverty and debt sustainability and still needed the support of the international community, which should be tailored to the specific needs of each country. For the middle-income countries, the recycling of debts for investment in social and environmental projects would stimulate development and reduce poverty. The international community could surely identify additional debt relief mechanisms that would not compromise the stability of the international financial institutions or jeopardize the financial credibility of the countries concerned.

64. Fourthly, Tunisia — given its geographical position close to the south of Europe and the number of its natives who had emigrated — attached major importance to the issue of migration and development, which should be the theme of an international conference. Tunisia had entered into agreements on organized migration with various countries of the region, an initiative that the International Organization for Migration held up as a model. Remittances by emigrants were little utilized as a source of development financing because they were depleted by high transfer costs. An international arrangement to reduce such costs should be worked out in the interest of creating additional financing for development.

65. Lastly, the digital divide was symptomatic of a world characterized by opposing economic, social, political and cultural forces. The development of information and communication technologies had not benefited all countries equally and was perpetuating the divide between regions, social classes and individuals. In that respect, Tunisia welcomed the commitment by the World Summit in September 2005 to ensure the success of the Tunis phase of the World

Summit on the Information Society in November 2005. High-level participation by all Member States in an event with the potential to establish a balanced and inclusive information society would make that commitment a reality.

66. **Ms. Bahemuka** (Kenya) said that in the light of the 2005 World Summit's call for robust global partnerships between North and South, as a prerequisite for success, Millennium Development Goal 8 had acquired an even greater significance. Her Government appreciated the recent commitments by the G-8 countries to increase ODA to Africa and welcomed the establishment of timetables by many developed countries for attainment of the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA not later than 2015 and for reaching at least 0.5 per cent by 2010.

67. The flow of direct foreign investment had been uneven, with Africa greatly disadvantaged. Sustained efforts were required to assist developing countries in creating the necessary enabling environment for foreign direct investment, especially in the infrastructure and capacity-building sectors.

68. Her Government welcomed the pledge by the G-8 countries to cancel 100 per cent of the outstanding debt of 18 HIPC countries. The pledge, when implemented, would undoubtedly unlock resources that were critical for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Kenya therefore supported calls for total debt cancellation for both HIPC and non-HIPC poor countries.

69. As trade could lead to greater human development and contribute to poverty eradication, her Government welcomed the progress made in the ongoing trade negotiations under the Doha Round. It called for reduction of tariff escalation for products of interest to developing countries, as well as elimination of domestic support measures in the developed countries. However, successful completion of the Doha Round might not mean much unless the international community was willing to put in place the necessary measures to address supply capacity and competitiveness issues in developing countries.

70. South-South cooperation was important for achieving development and must be strengthened in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals and targets. Unfortunately, its potential remained largely untapped owing to lack of effective implementation and follow-up mechanisms. Despite those constraints, profound economic and political changes in the South had provided greater opportunities for increasing cooperation. Trends in capital and trade flow had shown a remarkable increase. In particular, South-South cooperation was gradually evolving from a bilateral process to a regional and intraregional one, as in the case of NEPAD and the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership.

71. Sound environmental management was a basis for sustainable economic development. Kenya was committed to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. To that end, various legislative reforms had been undertaken and a framework law on environmental management enacted. There had been proposals in the past for establishment of a United Nations environmental organization, but Kenya felt that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was already fulfilling a number of useful roles in promoting international developmental governance, although its work was severely hampered by inadequate financial support. Strengthening and empowering UNEP in its current form would go a long way towards ensuring optimum use of existing infrastructure.

72. The United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals, could not be achieved without peace and security. The effect of insecurity on Kenya, caused by internal conflicts in both Somalia and the Sudan in the past two decades, had been enormous, and the proliferation of small arms had led to increased crime and the deaths of innocent civilians. The sharp increase in the numbers of refugees coming into the country had overstretched and diverted limited resources, which could otherwise have been used in poverty reduction initiatives, in particular improvements in health and education standards. Consequently, Kenya had been active in both the Sudanese and the Somali peace initiatives, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Her Government supported the initiatives by the United Nations to implement a 10-year plan for building a peacekeeping capacity within the African Union. It endorsed a holistic definition of collective security which strongly affirmed the connection between peace, development, human rights and the rule of law and called for a comprehensive approach.

73. **Ms. Chenoweth** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that FAO welcomed the reference in the World Summit Outcome to the need to place importance on the development of the rural and agriculture sectors in order to attain the Millennium Development Goals and other development goals. The critical role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries had been understated for too long, and promoting increased investment in those sectors had been a major thrust of the organization's advocacy over the past decade. In order to achieve a strong and lasting impact on poverty, it was necessary to understand how income, hunger reduction, education, health, gender and the environment interacted. In the light of the recent rededication of the international community to the eradication of hunger and poverty, FAO would continue to draw attention to issues and situations with the potential adversely to impact endeavours to attain the development goals. In the course of the present session, FAO would provide Member States with information about the International Year of Rice and the continued importance that FAO would be placing on rice production and its role in providing food security. The International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to be held in Brazil in 2006, would be another opportunity to highlight the important role of agriculture and rural development, which would assist in mobilizing the support of national Governments and the international community for ongoing agrarian reform and in securing tenure rights and access to land and other natural resources for the poor.

74. Education was one of the most effective means of alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development, as it helped to strengthen the capacity of people to solve their own problems and improve their own lives. FAO would continue to promote the importance of education in all areas of its work, in particular in the context of the Education for Rural People initiative being carried out jointly with UNESCO. Another important aspect of its work was the area of gender and development. Improving women's access to resources and services ultimately increased farm productivity and provided a more efficient use of resources, but promoting development that was economically efficient, environmentally friendly and equitable required a complete reorientation of development efforts to enhance women's capacities.

75. It was critical to stress the importance of the development dimension of HIV/AIDS, which should not be viewed solely as a health problem. The epidemic had moved rapidly from urban to rural areas, hitting those who were least equipped to deal with its consequences.

76. FAO would continue to treat as a priority the particular needs of special groups of countries, such as small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. She drew attention to the special conference of Ministers of Agriculture of small island developing States, to be convened in November 2005 during the thirty-third session of the FAO Conference, at which Ministers would examine vulnerability issues affecting the food security and sustainable development of their countries. With respect to South-South cooperation, she was pleased to report that, under the FAO Special Programme for Food Security, there were currently more than 100 cooperating countries, approximately 30 of which were operating or developing comprehensive national food security programmes. A crucial aspect of the work of FAO would be its continued support to the secretariat of NEPAD, particularly as it related to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the companion document on the forestry, fisheries and livestock sectors.

77. In closing, she drew attention to the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of FAO, as well as the twenty-fifth observance of World Food Day, for which the 2005 theme was "Agriculture and Intercultural Dialogue", chosen to highlight the historical contribution of all civilizations to food production.

78. **Ms. Hughes** (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, asserted that the United States trade embargo against Cuba was a bilateral issue that should not have come before the General Assembly. In drawing attention to the issue, Cuba was simply attempting to blame the communist regime's failed economic policies on the United States of America and to divert attention from its own human rights record. It had to be remembered that the United States was the largest single source of humanitarian assistance to Cuba. If Cubans were jobless or hungry, it was because of the failings of the current Government, which had shown no interest whatsoever in implementing any economic or political reform that

would lead to democratic change and a free market economy. The Cuban Government was not a victim, as it contended; rather, it was a tyrant, aggressively punishing anyone who dared to have a differing opinion. Castro had steadfastly refused to allow any kind of political opening, continuing to deny Cubans the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

79. **Ms. Navarro-Barro** (Cuba) said that for thirteen consecutive years the United Nations General Assembly had approved resolutions entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". In 2004, for example, the resolution had obtained the support of the vast majority of the States Members of the Organization: a total of 179 votes. That was the most evident demonstration of the energetic rejection by the international community of the unjust and criminal policy of the Government of the United States of America against Cuba. The clumsy pretexts that that Government used to maintain its policy, which was in stark defiance of international law and had severe extraterritorial implications, were well known. It was a falsehood to claim, as the delegation of the United States of America did, that the embargo was simply a bilateral matter. Rather than a simple embargo, what was being pursued was an economic war against Cuba, of global and colossal dimensions. There was no need to list the innumerable and undeniable achievements of the Cuban revolution in the area of human rights. Accusations like those just made were not surprising coming from a Government which in the immediate past had ignored the most elementary human rights of its population in the South, devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Since the United States delegation appeared to be unaware of Cuba's achievements in matters of economic and social development, she recommended that it should attentively read the report submitted by Cuba on its fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 4 October 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Wali ..... (Nigeria)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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05-53452 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Interiano** (El Salvador) said that the 2005 World Summit Outcome should provide continuity to the negotiation process towards achieving the reform of the United Nations. Consensus on applying the new development agenda, building a new international structure, and establishing a fair and equitable system for international trade based on non-discriminatory rules would require the political will of all Member States.

2. El Salvador was committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to that end was seeking new financing mechanisms for programmes to eradicate poverty. It would continue to support any new initiatives to finance development in all developing countries, but considered that continued international cooperation and technical, scientific and financial assistance for middle-income countries, including the exchange of external debt for social programmes, principally in the areas of education and health, was extremely important. While it was essential to strengthen North-South cooperation, particularly through the United States Agency for International Development's Global Development Alliance, El Salvador would continue to support South-South cooperation.

3. The role of the private sector in developed and developing countries needed to be enhanced, as did that of NGOs and civil society; their support reinforced the development of governmental programmes and policies. Furthermore, capacity-building and access to technology and knowledge was essential for developing countries, especially the transfer of information and communication technology. Consequently, El Salvador reaffirmed its special interest in participating in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November 2005. The United Nations agencies and programmes had a fundamental role to play in the execution of national development programmes and strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, it was urgent that the commitments made in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness should be fulfilled.

4. International migration had a significant impact on national economies, and dialogue and cooperation were crucial to gaining a clearer understanding of the phenomenon. El Salvador reiterated its interest in playing an active part in the high-level dialogue on international migration and development in 2006.

5. According to a report by Jeffrey Sachs, the countries of Central America were the among the most vulnerable to natural disasters, which affected their possibility of achieving the Millennium Goals. For example, El Salvador was currently experiencing a national emergency, owing to the strong rains resulting from a recent tropical storm and the eruption of one of its 23 volcanoes. Recent natural disasters in different parts of the world should cause the international community to re-evaluate its commitments and decisions concerning the environment, and measures should be taken to guarantee environmental sustainability and mitigate climate change.

6. **Ms. Mladineo** (Croatia), associating her delegation with the statement by made the European Union, said that Croatia had started negotiations for full membership in the Union. From the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, it was evident that tremendous inequalities existed in the world; yet widespread sharing of economic and political opportunities was instrumental for economic growth and development. Moreover, the effective mobilization of women in development and their equal access to financial resources should be given adequate attention. Bearing in mind the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit in September, the Second Committee should work in areas where it could add value, in order to translate those commitments into action and achieve concrete results in the area of development.

7. Financing for development was a priority. As a middle-income country in transition, Croatia had made progress and was ready to share its experience. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, clear country ownership of the process was essential, which involved mobilizing all domestic resources and working in close cooperation with development partners, within the framework of coherent policies. Fiscal adjustment was also necessary to limit external vulnerability and the increase of external debt in relation to GDP. Likewise, key structural reforms in the judicial, health and public administration sectors were required. As the current level of aid was insufficient to achieve the Goals, innovative sources of financing that provided additional, stable and predictable flows must

be found. Croatia supported improving national capacities and processes in order to strengthen the voice of developing countries and transitional economies in the international development arena and in the Bretton Woods institutions.

8. Sustainable development was a central element of the agenda for global action to fight poverty and protect the environment. Croatia was determined to work within the framework of the relevant United Nations conventions on climate change, biodiversity and biosafety. Accordingly, it had incorporated into its development strategy the sustainable management and development of all types of forests, affordable and cleaner energy, and issues relating to oceans and seas. It also strongly supported the prompt establishment of a worldwide early warning system for natural hazards. Croatia needed to adjust its policy planning owing to population displacement towards urban areas. Its national strategy included plans for the development of all inhabited spaces in strict compliance with high environmental and economic management standards.

9. Fighting corruption was another of Croatia's priorities, and it had created an office for the suppression of corruption and organized crime to prevent and prosecute such offences.

10. General Assembly resolution 57/270 B stressed that the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should incorporate in their programme of work the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and take them into account in the operational work and country frameworks of the organs of the United Nations system, in accordance with national development objectives and priorities. The Second Committee should bear in mind those provisions when re-examining and revitalizing its work with a view to ensuring the meaningful implementation of the commitments made in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

11. **Mr. Ramadan** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) noted that recent improvements in the world economy had not been translated into progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Economic development, security and social and economic justice had eluded the less developed countries, particularly those south of the Sahara. The provision of greater economic aid, debt relief, public and private investment, and technology transfer to those countries was of prime importance.

12. The Second Committee had taken up a number of issues relating to trade, finance, globalization and poverty eradication. Among the most important was the establishment of a fair and non-discriminatory international trade organization easily accessible to developing countries. In that regard, the authority of UNCTAD needed to be enhanced to enable it to carry out its tasks in the areas of development, trade and investment, and technical assistance for trade negotiations and information and communication technology. Another important issue was the need for innovative financing mechanisms to provide additional funds and technical assistance for developing countries to help realize the Millennium Development Goals. A third crucial issue was debt relief for poor countries. Despite recent initiatives in this area, debt remained the major obstacle to development in middle-income countries. A fourth issue was sustainable development as the fundamental basis for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

13. The United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations should establish a basic framework for a twenty-first century agenda that would strengthen the role of international institutions, in particular the role of the United Nations, with regard to the environment. Globalization posed both opportunities and challenges to the developing world. The widening of the income gap between advanced and developing countries was distressing, and a strategy was needed to enable the developing countries to join in the global economy and participate in decision-making in international financial and trade institutions.

14. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had taken a number of steps to integrate itself into the global economy. It had opened its doors to foreign investment and abolished many of the barriers to foreign trade. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya hoped to obtain support for its membership in the World Trade Organization in the wake of the General Assembly's acceptance of its request in 2004.

15. **Mr. Ali** (Malaysia) said that, through its summits and conferences, the United Nations had identified many of the challenges that confronted developing countries as they endeavoured to achieve their development goals, in particular poverty eradication.

The latter was a collective responsibility that required the sustained efforts of both stakeholders and the United Nations system. However, the various programmes of action adopted could not be fully implemented and sustained without the required financial resources. Malaysia therefore believed that financing for development was a core issue of international cooperation for development. It welcomed the European Union's adoption of a set of clear timelines for reaching the target of 0.7 per cent of its gross national income (GNI) for official development assistance (ODA) and recalled its proposal that an effective monitoring mechanism should be established to ensure that the internationally agreed target for ODA allocation was met.

16. In the context of Qatar's offer to host the follow-up conference to the International Conference on Financing for Development, Malaysia urged the international community to take the opportunity to press for a new international framework on financing for development that would be more supportive of development efforts and benefit the global economy. Institutional and systemic issues, including the reform of the international financial architecture, must be addressed, and more innovative ways found of mobilizing additional financial resources for realizing the internationally-agreed development targets set forth in the Millennium Declaration and reiterated in the World Summit Outcome.

17. Malaysia had achieved seven out of the eight Millennium Development Goals, but sought further improvement in the areas of health and education; the eradication of extreme poverty among indigenous peoples; the promotion of gender equality, the elimination of gender-based violence, and the use of the new information and communication technologies.

18. The sharp increase in the price of crude oil was a matter of grave concern and the international community, led by the United Nations, should give serious attention to measures that mitigated the adverse impact on the economies of developing countries. Governments should be encouraged to adopt measures to reduce their countries' dependence on fossil fuels through conservation and encouraging the use of alternative energy sources. Moreover, the international community, through the United Nations, should give serious attention to the emerging threat of avian influenza virus, which had already resulted in deaths and substantial losses to the poultry industry in South-East Asia.

19. While a few developing countries had managed to take advantage of the opportunities provided by globalization, many others, especially the least developed countries, had suffered economic hardship and further marginalization. Nevertheless, if globalization was properly regulated it could help correct the prevailing inequities between the developed and developing countries. Malaysia had benefited from globalization through trade liberalization and foreign direct investment; in addition, it was also becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination. The principles of sustainable development had been integrated into Malaysia's development planning and implementation. A comprehensive approach had been adopted that took into account the population's socio-economic needs as well as the enhancement of the quality of life through improvements in productivity and conservation of the natural environment.

20. Malaysia attached great importance to South-South cooperation and in September 2005 had officially launched the South-South Information Gateway, as a one-stop information centre, providing information according to the perspectives of the countries of the South.

21. **Ms. Enkhtsetseg** (Mongolia) said that her country associated itself with the statements made by the representative of Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, speaking on behalf of the landlocked developing countries.

22. Progress on implementing the Millennium Development Goals was uneven. Although the world possessed the resources to make a decisive breakthrough in human development, great disparities persisted as 2.5 billion people, or 40 per cent of the world's population, lived on less than two dollars a day and accounted for a mere 5 per cent of the world's income. Although some economists had once argued that economic growth would, on its own, help reduce poverty, it had become evident that effective mechanisms — particularly public health and education systems and social safety nets — were needed to ensure that the benefits of economic growth reached the neediest and most vulnerable populations.

23. Many smaller countries had significant capacity constraints and were unable to develop swiftly — a

situation that underscored the need for a global partnership between developed and developing countries, as reaffirmed by the Monterrey Consensus and the recent Summit. International aid was an effective weapon in the war against poverty, and the pledge to increase ODA to developing countries by some 50 billion dollars a year was a good sign. To make the most effective use of aid, it was imperative both to increase the quantity of aid, so that essential investments could be made in health, education, and economic infrastructure to assure sustained growth, and to improve the quality of aid. The principles set forth in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of March 2005 needed to be implemented.

24. The importance of aid notwithstanding, trade and investment were pivotal for ensuring sustainable development. As the Human Development Report, 2005, pointed out, the trade barriers faced by developing countries exporting to developed countries were three to four times greater than those faced by developed countries trading with each other. The situation was worse for landlocked countries. The Doha Round must therefore establish fairer and more favourable terms of trade for developing countries in the form of enhanced and predictable market access and assistance in capacity-building.

25. Mongolia welcomed the decision by the European Union to accord duty-free access to over 7,200 items imported from small and vulnerable economies, including Mongolia, under "GSP+" treatment. More and better access meant that more families would be able to emerge from poverty. The country looked forward to further enhancement of market access by the country's major trading partners.

26. The 2005 World Summit Outcome stressed the need to find a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to developing countries' debt problems, which were a major impediment to sustainable growth. Urgent consideration needed to be given to providing significant debt relief or restructuring for low- and middle-income developing countries that were not covered by the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and whose debt burden was unsustainable.

27. Mongolia remained steadfastly committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Most of Mongolia's goals, especially in the areas of education, health and gender issues, were on track and could be achieved by 2015. Nevertheless, poverty needed to be addressed more aggressively. In 1990s, when Mongolia had begun its transition market economy, the inflation rate had stood at 300 per cent, and most industry had closed do heightening unemployment and poverty. Consis policies by successive governments, entrepreneurial initiative of the Mongolian people support from the country's development partners enabled it over time to achieve a reasonable leve macroeconomic stability. The private sector currently generating approximately 80 per cent Mongolia's gross domestic product (GDP), and economic growth rate in 2004 had been 10.6 per c Skyrocketing oil prices, however, were nullifying country's previous advances. Accordingly, Mong believed that the call made in the Summit Outcome the international community to address the impac weak and volatile commodity prices and support efforts of commodity-dependent countries restructure, diversify and strengthen competitiveness of their commodity sectors sh receive a swift response. It supported recommendation to establish commodity p agreements or stabilization tools and a fast-respon grant-financed shocks facility for low-inc commodity-dependent countries, to be administere one of the Bretton Woods institutions.

28. Under the eighth Millennium Development G "Develop a global partnership for developme Mongolia had introduced specific targets to address special needs arising from its landlocked situatio study by UNCTAD revealed that landlo developing countries spent twice as much on trans costs as an average developing country, and three ti as much as an average developed country. Hi import costs and lower export earnings combine reduce the competitiveness of landlocked develo countries. Since 1998, Mongolia had been negotia an agreement with its two neighbours, the Rus Federation and China, to reduce cross-border trans costs and associated formalities, and the prosp were good for concluding an agreement in that rega

29. In the context of the reform of the Economic Social Council, assistance from the United Nati whether in the form of expertise or funds, needed t focused, results-oriented and tailored to count high-priority development needs, with a view helping ordinary people escape from poverty and

in dignity. A major discrepancy needed to be put right. In countries receiving assistance, a joint exercise was conducted every five years to identify the high-priority areas for development assistance and produce a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) document and a Common Country Assessment (CCA) for the forthcoming cycle. However, there was no proper follow-up at Headquarters afterwards. As a result, different country assistance programmes were approved by different United Nations entities, without any single entity at Headquarters being responsible for monitoring the overall assistance framework and ensuring that the organizations of the United Nations system were providing developing countries with a coordinated development package. The reform of the Council provided an opportunity to remedy that problem.

30. **Mr. Yao** Wenlong (China) said that development was a long-standing goal, recently reaffirmed by national leaders in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. There were unprecedented opportunities for development (economic globalization, rapid progress of science and technology and improvement of productive forces) but also grave challenges that blocked the development process (widespread poverty and hunger, a widening gap between the North and the South, restrictive trade tariffs, the debt burden and the spread of diseases), suggesting the causes of unbalanced global development were clearly structural. To remove the structural obstacles, a more equitable new international economic order should be created including the establishment of an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trade system and an improved international financial system, in both of which developing countries would participate more effectively. The Doha Round should reflect the theme of development and developed countries should open up their markets, abolish agricultural subsidies and genuinely implement special and differential treatment.

31. A true partnership was built on mutual commitments and shared responsibilities. At the recent summit, developing countries had shown themselves courageously determined to pursue structural reform, improve governance, enhance South-South cooperation and reinforce self-development. In return, developed countries must muster the necessary political will, create a favourable external economic environment, fulfil their commitments and adopt measures with regard to poverty eradication, financial aid and debt relief, including the internationally agreed ODA goal. They should also mobilize their civil society and private sectors to complement the action of Governments, with a view to accelerating economic growth.

32. The role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation should be strengthened in the areas of consensus-building and formulating rules for greater participation of the developing countries in development efforts. The Organization should strengthen its cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international and regional agencies in order to support development. The coordinating capability of the Economic and Social Council should be enhanced, and the Council should promote efforts to construct an evaluation framework for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

33. Despite their tireless efforts, African countries, especially in the sub-Saharan region, faced numerous development difficulties. The international community should focus more on African long-term stability and development and offer targeted assistance to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The least developed countries needed help to overcome special difficulties whose elimination would contribute greatly to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at the global level.

34. China was committed to strengthening South-South cooperation, which reflected the spirit of self-reliance and solidarity among developing countries. To that end, President Hu Jintao had announced at the recent summit new measures in five areas: finance, debt, trade, capacity-building and public health. China planned to engage in a further exchange of experience with other developing countries in order to find new ways of making South-South cooperation more effective.

35. **Mr. Koonjul** (Mauritius), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that AOSIS aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The sharp increase in oil prices, which was changing all economic forecasts and plans, placed an increasingly heavy burden on all countries, and particularly on small island developing States, the sustainability of whose growth was thus jeopardized. As a result of higher commodity prices and lower

income from exports, those States, which were net importers of oil, minerals and other essential commodities, would face deteriorating terms of trade on a long-term basis. That amounted to a major economic jolt and was likely to undermine their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

36. Energy dependence was a major source of economic vulnerability. Accordingly, the Committee should seek convergent ideas on how to raise awareness of the need for alternative sources of energy. Various possibilities should be explored. Efficiency should be sought in energy production, distribution and utilization. Many small island developing States were unable to adopt energy-efficient practices for lack of appropriate policies and information, and most needed energy audits. Sugar cane could be used for ethanol production, while coconut oil could serve as a diesel substitute. Ocean thermal energy conversion technology could be used to generate electricity and supply other valuable by-products, such as abundant fresh water, nutrient-rich water for aquaculture, fertilizers and cold water for process cooling or air conditioning. Newly developed tide energy technology was relatively inexpensive, ecologically benign and a reliable source of electricity. Under the Mauritius Strategy, small island developing States, with the help of international partners, should work together to promote the dissemination and application of appropriate technology and to strengthen such existing mechanisms as the United Nations renewable energy fund and the United Nations Development Programme thematic trust fund for energy. Progress should be made in that area before the 2006 review by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

37. Climate change and variability, the sea-level rise and susceptibility to natural disasters and other global environmental phenomena caused environmental degradation. The frequency, intensity and span of hurricanes and tropical cyclones had increased, with devastating effects on small island developing States, which were innocent victims of global warming and should therefore receive financial and technical assistance to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Clinton global initiative, inaugurated in New York in September 2005, had organized extensive discussions on possible responses to climate change, including exploring business opportunities related to investment in alternative energy sources. In fact, demand for clean energy was exploding worldwide. Clean coal technologies were at least 25 percent more efficient than traditional coal-fired power plants. Developing countries, including small island developing States, should consider the possibility of identifying new sources of financing in the form of business ventures with the private sector.

38. The structural disadvantages faced by small island developing States, which related to various exogenous factors and such vulnerabilities as their remoteness and smallness, inhibited investors and thwarted those States' efforts to take advantage of the forces of globalization and new trading opportunities. Their respecialization opportunities were few and were often limited to developing international services, while most agricultural and manufactured exports faced stiff international competition. Responses to those issues necessitated corrective price mechanisms and preferential terms in the area of investment. However, the notion of concessionary financial measures had so far made little progress, save for the "small island exception" support measure introduced by the World Bank, although UNCTAD had long advocated special treatment for small island developing States, recognizing them as highly vulnerable economies, and had been encouraged to address their special problems in the São Paulo Consensus. Hopefully, those problems would be reassessed in time for the ministerial meeting in Hong Kong.

39. During the High-level Plenary Meeting in September 2005 the Prime Minister of Mauritius, speaking on behalf of AOSIS, had outlined a road map for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and focused on the need to mobilize international and domestic resources for that purpose. The outcomes of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius in January 2005, would be further discussed by the Committee in the current month. Under the Mauritius Strategy, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States was entrusted with continuing to mobilize international support and resources for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action in accordance with its mandate. A major issue in the implementation of that Programme of Action had been the lack of any

central or coordinating financing mechanism. Most of the projects and programmes implemented had been successful as a result of focused lobbying. In order to further assist such efforts, the Office of the High Representative should actively pursue its fund-raising activities. Under agenda item 54 concerning sustainable development, Mauritius would introduce a draft resolution entitled "International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" and, in that connection, requested again adequate staff and equipment at the level of the United Nations Secretariat to facilitate the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

40. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that the recent summit gave ground for a degree of optimism and called for the full and early implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the conferences and summits held over the past five years. International trade was a key instrument for accelerating economic growth, financing development and eliminating poverty, and it was crucial that the Doha Round of trade negotiations should be brought to a successful conclusion. Although Kazakhstan welcomed the positive steps taken by donor countries in the area of assistance and debt relief for the least developed countries, those steps were not sufficient to assure the full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

41. Thanks to Kazakhstan's national development strategy, all the Millennium Development Goals set for the country had either been achieved or were close to being achieved. Economic reforms had brought about macroeconomic stability, and the rate of GDP growth had averaged 10 per cent over the previous five years. Oil and gas export revenues were being paid into a national fund, to assure sustainable social and economic development and cushion the country against the impact of unfavourable external factors.

42. Further liberalization of trade and accession to WTO membership were key components of the country's general development strategy. Kazakhstan's status as a landlocked country and an economy in transition needed to be taken into account in WTO accession talks. Indeed, the Almaty Programme of Action called for particular consideration to be given to the special needs of landlocked developing countries. To support the implementation of that Programme, the Government of Kazakhstan had in March 2005 organized a high-level meeting on the role of international, regional and subregional organizations in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action.

43. It was considered that the outcome of that meeting was an important contribution to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action through enhanced partnerships with all stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations. Regional integration was extremely important for the social and economic integration of the region in order to address common problems faced by Kazakhstan and its neighbours, for which the President of Kazakhstan had proposed the establishment of a Union of Central Asian States.

44. Environmental sustainability was a high-priority objective of the Government of Kazakhstan. The global nature of environmental disasters involving the Aral Sea and the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing facility demanded a radically new approach on the part of the donor community.

45. Kazakhstan was grateful to the international community, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, for its assistance in addressing the effects of those environmental disasters. Despite Kazakhstan's best efforts, more help was needed from the country's development partners. In particular, he requested support for the draft resolution sponsored by Kazakhstan, entitled "International cooperation and coordination for the human and technological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan".

46. As recent events had demonstrated, no country was safe from natural disasters. The United Nations should assume a leadership role in establishing a comprehensive worldwide early-warning system.

47. Access to freshwater resources was a high priority for Kazakhstan, which had allocated US$ 900 million for a potable water programme for the period 2002-2012. The country supported efforts to develop and improve cooperation on cross-border waterways, and hoped that the Advisory Board on Water Resources and Sanitation recently established by the Secretary-General would become an effective mechanism for addressing water resources management issues.

48. **Mr. Bhagwat-Singh** (Observer for the World Conservation Union (IUCN)) welcomed the Outcome's recognition of the crucial role played by conservation

and sustainable natural resource management in eradicating poverty and underpinning the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. However, urgent action was required to maintain the environmental foundation of sustainable livelihoods, since ecosystems were still being eroded and the essential services derived therefrom were still being used in an unsustainable manner. In that regard, he welcomed the resolve of the international community to fulfil its commitments to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

49. He also welcomed the recognition that climate change was a serious long-term challenge and hailed the commitment to take further action to address that issue and other key issues, including desertification, water and sanitation and natural disasters. Referring to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Millennium Project, he said that it would be necessary to integrate environmental sustainability into the development of the national development strategies called for in the Summit Outcome.

50. **Mr. Bhattacharya** (Observer for the World Bank) said that, notwithstanding the slowdown in world economic growth in 2005, developing country economies would continue to outperform those of high-income countries by a wide margin. Their expected growth of more than 5 per cent over the next two years exceeded by a substantial margin their performance in previous decades, reflecting the benefits of past policy reform. However, that positive assessment was marred by the recent spate of natural disasters and the vulnerability of developing countries to risks stemming, inter alia, from high and uncertain oil prices, inflationary pressures in real-estate markets and the longer-term threat to financial stability posed by persistent global imbalances. The impact of oil prices, which had more than doubled since late 2003, was of particular concern to developing countries. Indeed, the significant and disproportionate impact of the most recent increases on the poorest oil-importing developing countries had not been offset to the same extent as in 2000 and 2004 by higher non-oil commodity prices. For oil-importing sub-Saharan African countries, the additional costs would have to be accommodated by reductions in reserves, non-oil imports and domestic demand, with a potential serious impact on poverty.

51. In the area of financing for development, the strong commitments by world leaders at the World Summit to take action on a range of global development challenges had reinforced the broad international consensus that resolute action from developed countries on trade, aid and debt relief must be matched by improved performance and governance on the part of developing countries. The Annual Meetings of the Bank and IMF in September had called for translating those agreements into concrete action plans and measurable steps. They had agreed, inter alia, on the Group of Eight proposal for 100 per cent cancellation of debt owed by eligible heavily indebted poor countries to the International Development Association (IDA), the African Development Fund and IMF as a means of reducing debt and increasing resources for achieving the Millennium Development Goals while ensuring that the financing capacity of international financing institutions was not reduced and endorsed the joint Bank-Fund proposal for an enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to least developed countries.

52. Indeed, the conditions for improving the development agenda had never been better. An agreed country-based architecture — the poverty reduction strategy approach — was in place; aid financing would rise by some $50 billion from $80 billion in 2004 to $130 billion in 2010, with half of that amount being committed to Africa; and important progress had been made on the collective commitment to improve aid effectiveness.

53. However, a number of major challenges would need to be addressed to translate those steps and commitments into an action plan. They included mustering firm political will in a tight fiscal environment to deliver on the aid commitments made while ensuring that a much higher proportion of aid financing was in the form of project or programme financing; pushing for innovative financing mechanisms but ensuring that such financing was delivered in accordance with agreed country performance and the results-based approach; improving the predictability and flexibility of aid so as to enable recipient countries to prepare results-based poverty reduction strategies for long-term programmes. Lastly, since trade liberalization was as important as increased assistance and debt relief to accelerating development, the outcome of the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Meeting would be crucial for progress on the Doha Development Agenda. Indeed, all countries stood to gain from an ambitious Doha Round.

54. Turning to global interdependence, he noted that climate change was one of the most pressing challenges, since developing countries were the most vulnerable to that phenomenon. The agenda to address climate change overlapped with the imperative for greater energy efficiency in the wake of high energy prices. In that regard, the Bank was spearheading efforts to develop an appropriate investment framework for clean energy and sustainable development and identify pragmatic investment and financing options. Migration and remittances constituted another area of growing importance on the global agenda. Yet another area of regional and global concern was the spread of avian influenza, especially the real possibility that the virus might mutate at some point into a form capable of human-to-human transmission, leading to a possible pandemic. In that regard, the international community needed to take preventive steps at the national, regional and international levels. He therefore welcomed the appointment of a United Nations System Senior Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza. Both the President of the World Bank and the Managing Director of IMF had stressed the importance of addressing the issue of the participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions and of adapting the governance structure of those bodies to reflect changing realities in the global economy, ensuring that all members had an adequate voice in those institutions. The next important step in that process would be taken during the Thirteenth General Review of Quotas of the Fund.

The meeting rose at noon.